

Chem-Bio News

1. GADGET IDENTIFIES 'WHITE POWDER' SCARES: *"A Christchurch-based technology start-up, Veritide, says it has received orders for all of the hand-held scanners it has manufactured to quickly identify bacterial spores such as anthrax."*

2. MEASURING 'INAUDIBLE' SOUNDS TO DETECT ILLEGAL NUCLEAR TESTS, AND ANALYZE ATMOSPHERE: *"TU Delft PhD student Láslo Evers, who works at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), has improved the entire process of measuring, analysing and interpreting infrasound."*

3. STUDY: MEDIA CAN DISTORT PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES: *"Media coverage of infectious diseases such as avian influenza can create the impression that the conditions are more of a threat than they really are, according to a recent study from Canada."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - UPDATE: *"Army destroys last nerve agent munition in Oregon chemical weapons stockpile."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

GADGET IDENTIFIES 'WHITE POWDER' SCARES

BusinessDay.co.nz
November 5, 2008

"A Christchurch-based technology start-up, Veritide, says it has received orders for all of the hand-held scanners it has manufactured to quickly identify bacterial spores such as anthrax.

It was deluged with orders, with clients including hazardous materials teams in major United States cities and US defence agencies, after pitching the non-invasive scanner in August."

"The disruption caused by such scares helped boost interest in Veritide's Scout scanner, which uses ultra-violet light and complex software to detect presence of potentially lethal spores in powder samples in six to eight minutes."

"The scanner has been validated by New Zealand forensic laboratories at Environmental Science and Research, which tested it on a variety of hoax substances and anthrax simulants. Direct testing with "live" anthrax is now under way in independent US and United Kingdom laboratories."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.businessday.co.nz/industries/4750762>

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MEASURING 'INAUDIBLE' SOUNDS TO DETECT ILLEGAL NUCLEAR TESTS, AND ANALYZE ATMOSPHERE

ScienceDaily

November 5, 2008

"TU Delft PhD student Láslo Evers, who works at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), has improved the entire process of measuring, analysing and interpreting infrasound. The big challenge is to separate sounds from one other and to identify their sources.

Large explosions in the vicinity are easy to recognise, for example the explosion of a fuel depot near London in 2005. At home, Evers saw a huge peak above the noise on his computer screen. He knew immediately that something big had happened in England.

But the main purpose of his work is the detection of above-ground nuclear tests. KNMI helps to enforce the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1996, which prohibits signatories from testing nuclear devices. Dozens of microbarometers have been set up on five sites in the Netherlands."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081103090906.htm>

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STUDY: MEDIA CAN DISTORT PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

By Lisa Schnirring

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)

November 5, 2008

"Media coverage of infectious diseases such as avian influenza can create the impression that the conditions are more of a threat than they really are, according to a recent study from Canada.

However, media stories that include factual information on disease symptoms, mortality, and infection rates leave readers with a more accurate view of the risks, according to the authors, who published their findings in the Oct 29 issue of Public Library of Science One (PLoS One). The study group is from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont.

Meredith Young, lead author and graduate student in McMasters' Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behavior, said in a university press release that the media focus on rare

and dramatic events. "When a certain disease receives repeated coverage in the press, people tend to focus on it and perceive it as a real threat," she said. "This raises concerns regarding how people view their own health, how they truly understand disease, and how they treat themselves."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/nov0508media-br.html>

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - UPDATE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

November 5, 2008

"The last chemical munition containing nerve agent in the Oregon stockpile was safely destroyed at 2:58 p.m. PST today when Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) workers completed destruction of the last VX-filled land mine. The only chemical munitions now remaining at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) are HD mustard blister agent bulk containers or "ton containers."

"The Army said we'd do it. We did it. And we did it safely," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at UMCDF, commenting on the disposal of GB sarin and VX nerve agent that began in September of 2004. "We'll remain fully committed to safety as we prepare to dispose of the mustard ton containers."

"This was a tremendous team effort by the Army and the community," said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. "We thank our dedicated workers for a safe job well done, and we thank the community for years of emergency preparedness effort and support."

The last container of VX mines was safely moved by depot storage workers to the disposal plant yesterday. Disposal of 11,685 VX land mines was the 12th individual chemical munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. It was the sixth individual VX munitions campaign, and it started on Sept. 25 with the first movement of land mines to the disposal plant.

"Environmental compliance was the hallmark of both the GB and VX campaigns," said Doug Hamrick, project general manager for Washington Defense Group of URS Corporation's EG&G Division. Washington Defense Group built and operates the disposal plant for the Army. "We're pleased to consistently meet the high standards of state oversight officials."

Final destruction of VX land mines also marks the end of chemical munitions in the Oregon stockpile containing explosive components. HD mustard ton containers hold no explosives or

“energetic” components.

The UMCDF will now perform a “changeover” process to prepare the plant, procedures and workers for processing HD mustard blister agent. That changeover is planned to take about five months. Mustard agent destruction is expected to take one to two years to complete if there are no significant delays.

The first chemical munitions disposal campaign in Oregon began on Sept. 7, 2004, with the first movement of GB-filled M55 rockets to the disposal plant. Since that time, the following 12 chemical munitions disposal campaigns have been successfully and safely completed:

- 4 GB (sarin-filled) bulk containers or “ton containers” completed Jan. 5, 2006. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 27 GB 500-pound bombs completed May 18, 2006.
- 2,418 GB 750-pound bombs completed June 9, 2006.
- 91,442 GB rockets and warheads completed Aug. 9, 2006.
- 14,246 GB 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles completed Jan. 3, 2007.
- 47,406 GB 155mm diameter artillery projectiles completed July 8, 2007.
- One VX bulk container or “ton container” completed Nov. 26, 2007. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 156 VX aircraft-mounted spray tanks completed Dec. 24, 2007.
- 14,519 VX rockets and warheads completed Jan. 23, 2008.
- 32,313 VX 155mm projectiles completed June 27, 2008.
- 3,752 VX 8-inch projectiles completed August 6, 2008.
- 11,685 VX land mines completed today.

Some of the disposal campaigns ran simultaneously. The disposal plant has multiple processing lines and is capable of safely disposing of different types of munitions at the same time.

When the Umatilla chemical munitions destruction mission is complete, the disposal plant will be thoroughly cleaned and disassembled according to environmental permits. The Umatilla Chemical Depot is slated for closure per the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law. Chemical munitions have been safely and securely stored at the depot since the 1960s. The depot opened in 1941.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003679396>

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